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503.30414C13

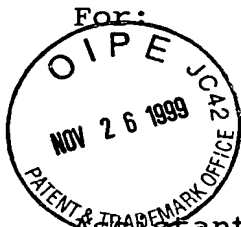
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): KATO ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/390,681

Filed: September 7, 1999

For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING  
METHOD THEREFOR



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97 AND §1.98

RECEIVED  
NOV 30 1999  
Group 3700

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 26, 1999

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure, enclosed please find documents cited in an Office Action in connection with a Japanese patent application corresponding to the above-identified application. Further enclosed is a copy of a Form, substantially equal to Form PTO-1449, listing the enclosed documents.

The enclosed documents are being submitted prior to a first Office Action on the merits in the above-identified application. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.97 are satisfied.

To the extent that the enclosed documents are not in English, it is respectfully submitted that the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3) are satisfied by submitting abstracts of various of the documents not in English, partial English translations of various of the documents not in English, and the following comments.

JP Hei 2-61064 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 4,969,790, and relates to a merry-go-round system.

No. JP Hei 1-310553 relates to a single chamber.

No. JP 1-251734 relates to a vacuum cassette.

No. JP Sho 62-44571 relates to an ion implantor.

No. JP Sho 62-50463 relates to a sputtering device; and  
JP Hei 2-106037 relates to a single chamber device. JP No.  
Sho 57-29577 relates to a sputtering device.

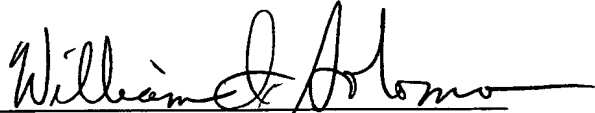
In "*Semiconductor Equipment Association of Japan*", a load  
lock chamber is defined.

In view of all the foregoing, it is respectfully  
submitted that all requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98  
have been satisfied, in connection with the presently  
submitted documents. Accordingly, consideration of these  
documents, upon examination of the above-identified  
application, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, please charge any shortage in  
fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,  
including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No.  
01-2135 (Case No. 503.30414C13) and please credit any excess  
fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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